

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 04587 01 OF 02 081709Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 H-01 INR-07 NSC-05 /041 W
-----107123 082119Z /75

R 081410Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1406
INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BELGRADE 4587

E.O. 11625: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, YO, US
SUBJECT: THE BILL ON MIHAJLOVIC MONUMENT

REF: BELGRADE 4487

1. FOLLOWING ARE LETTERS FROM TO REPS. ZABLOCKI
AND DERWINSKI WHICH I ASK THE DEPARTMENT TO FORWARD.
(A COPY OF THE ZABLOCKI LETTER SHOULD ALSO BE SENT
TO DERWINSKI.) I AM FOLLOWING UP WITH SIGNED
ORIGINALS TO SENT BY POUCH.

2. I AM STILL WAITING FOR DEPARTMENT'S SUGGESTIONS ON WHOM TO
WRITE TO IN THE SENATE.

3. HONORABLE CLEMENT ZABLOCKI
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

DEAR CLEM:

I RECENTLY LEARNED THAT THE SENATE, EARLY
IN THIS SESSION, AUTHORIZED CONSTRUCTION OF A
MONUMENT IN HONOR OF GENERAL DRAZA
MIHAJLOVIC, LEADER OF THE YUGOSLAV CHETNIKS
DURING WORLD WAR II. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT
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A SIMILAR BILL HAS BEEN INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE AND IS
NOW BEFORE THE HIRC FOR CONSIDERATION.

LAST SATURDAY I WAS CALLED TO THE FOREIGN
MINISTRY HERE IN BELGRADE TO RECEIVE A "MOST
ENERGETIC PROTEST" AGAINST THE SENATE ACTION.
THE YUGOSLAV EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS ALSO,

I UNDERSTAND, REGISTERED A SIMILAR STIFF PROTEST WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. ADDITIONALLY, THE SENATE ACTION HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF VOCIFEROUS COMPLAINT DURING EACH OF MY COURTESY CALLS ON SENIOR YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS OVER THE COURSE OF THE PAST WEEK OR SO. IN SHORT, THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT HAS MADE NO BONES ABOUT ITS EXTREME DISTASTE FOR THE SENATE MOVE, AND ITS STRONG HOPE THAT THE MATTER WILL GO NO FURTHER.

WHILE I HAVE NO WISH TO ENTER INTO A DEBATE OVER FENERAL MIHAJLOVIC'S PROPER PLACE IN HISTORY (YOU UNDOUBTEDLY KNOW THE OFFICIAL YUGOSLAV VIEW IS THAT PARTISANS ALSO SAVED MANY ALLIED AVIATORS AND THE CHETNIKS COLLABORATED WITH THE NAZIS RATHER THAN FIGHTING THEM), I DO FEEL STRONGLY THAT YOU AND THE MEMBERS OF THE HIRC SHOULD BE AWARE OF MY VIEW THAT PASSAGE BY THE HOUSE OF THIS LEGISLATION WOULD HAVE AN EXTREMELY ADVERSE IMPACT ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA. RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, THE YUGOSLAVS LOOK UPON THE BILL AS A "PROVOCATION", AND WOULD REACT TO ITS PASSAGE ACCORDINGLY.

I THINK YOU KNOW ME WELL ENOUGH, CLEM, TO RECOGNIZE THAT I WOULD NOT OVERSTATE THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CASE SIMPLY TO MAKE MY LIFE EASIER HERE. RATHER, I AM TOTALLY CONVINCED--PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THE EMOTIONAL RESPONSE THE SENATE ACTION HAS ALREADY GENERATED--THAT HOUSE PASSAGE OF A SIMILAR BILL WOULD DEAL YUGOSLAV-U.S. RELATIONS A SERIOUS AND UNNECESSARY BLOW. THUS, AS AMBASSADOR TO YUGOSLAVIA I MUST STRONGLY RECOMMEND AGAINST PASSAGE OF THE LEGISLATION HONORING GENERAL MIHAJLOVIC.

SINCE I VALUE CONGRESSMAN DERWINSKI'S FRIENDSHIP AND HAVE NO DESIRE TO GO BEHIND HIS

NOTE BY OCT: DISSIMINATION COORDINATED WITH SS/O,PER MR.PERITO.

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 04587 02 OF 02 081957Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 H-01 INR-07 NSC-05 /041 W
-----110366 082122Z /75

R 081410Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1407
INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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BACK ON THIS MATTER, I HAVE ASKED THAT
A COPY OF THIS LETTER BE GIVEN TO HIM.

WITH WARM REGDWDS,

LAWERENCE S. EAGLEBURGER
AMERICAN AMBASSADOR

CC: CONGRESSMAN DERWINSKI

4. HONORABLE EDWARD J. DERWINSKI
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

DEAR CONGRESSMAN DERWINSKI:
WHEN I SAW YOU SHORTLY BEFORE LEAVING
FOR BELGRADE I INDICATED I WOULD LIKE TO KEEP
IN TOUCH ON EASTERN EUROPEAN MATTERS. AT THE
TIME I DID NOT THINK I WOULD BE FOLLOWING UP
ON THAT WISH SO SOON.

I HAVE JUST SENT CLEM ZABLOCKI A LETTER
ADVISING AGAINST PASSAGE OF THE BILL
AUTHORIZING A STATUE IN HONOR OF GENERAL
MIHAJLOVIC, AND HAVE ASKED THAT YOU BE GIVEN
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A COPY OF THAT LETTER. IT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF
SO I WILL NOT REHASH ITS ARGUMENTS HERE. BUT
SINCE YOU ARE, AS I RECALL, A SPONSOR OF THE
LEGISLATION, I WANTED YOU TO KNOW MY
POSITION AND WPRT I HAD DONE.

E WITH WARM REGARDS,

LAWSHENCE S. EAGLEBURGER
AMERICAN AMBASSADOR

ENCL: LETTER TO CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI
EAGLEBURGER

NOTE BY OCT: DISSIMINATION COORDINATED WITH SS/O. PER MR. PERITO.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: CULTURAL PROPERTY, MONUMENTS, LEGISLATIVE BILLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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